

## **APPENDIX E: RECOMMENDATIONS, PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Recommend that a study be programmed to determine the history of World War II prisoners of war and Italian service units in the Bay Area to include:

1. The Italian and German prisoners of war who occupied a portion of Area A in the lower Presidio and who were assigned to Letterman General Hospital. Because two surviving structures 274 and 275 are scheduled for removal, recommend that the study address archeology, internal physical evidence such as writing within the walls (the interior of this type of building was not then lined), and the historical record.
2. A history of the 141st Italian quartermaster Service Company stationed at the Presidio (formerly prisoners of war).
3. The prisoner of war installation on Angel Island that processed both Japanese and German prisoners of war, including a number of high ranking German officers captured in North Africa. Did the MIS play a role here?
4. A History of the high-security interrogation center at Byron Hot Spring east of San Francisco, particularly of the German officers.

The primary source would be Record Group 389, Records of the Provost Marshal General, Modern Military, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Recommend that Golden Gate National Recreation Area, if it has not already done so, acquire microfilm of the post returns of all army posts in the Bay Area and Monterey, 1847-1916. The Army constantly rotated military units among these posts and having such data at hand would greatly facilitate an overall picture of military activities in the area. Microfilm M617, National Archives:

Presidio of San Francisco	March 1847 – December 1916	Rolls 967-972
Camp Schofield	September – October 1863	Roll 972
Camp Summer	July – August 1861	Roll 972
Depot of Recruit Instruction	July 1902 – July 1903	Roll 972
Provost Guard	September 1864 – July 1865	Roll 1978

Miscellaneous	April 1898 – February 1915	Roll 1978
Letterman General Hospital	January 1901 – December 1916	Rolls 973-977
Presidio of Monterey	January 1847 – July 1895	Roll 964
	September 1902 – December 1916	Rolls 965-966
Fort Mason	October 1863 – December 1916	Rolls 754-758
Fort Baker	March 1862 – December 1913	Rolls 65-66
Fort Barry	January 1908 – December 1913	Roll 80
Fort Miley	July 1902 – December 1913	Rolls 14-17
Alcatraz island	December 1859 – December 1916	Rolls 14-17
Benicia Arsenal	August 1851 – December 1916	Rolls 98-101
Benicia Barracks	April 1849 – April 1908	Rolls 102-105
Angel Island	January 1864 – March 1900	Rolls 29-31
Fort McDowell	September 1863 – December 1916	Rolls 670-671

(No post returns for Forts Cronkhite and Funston.)

Recommend in the long run the restoration of as much as possible of the original parade ground at the Presidio of San Francisco. This is the area bounded by Funston Avenue on the east, Moraga Avenue on the south, Graham Street on the west, and an imaginary straight line on the north running from the Alameda westward to Graham Street. This area was the principal and formal parade ground from at least the Civil War to the 1920s. It is realized that the existence of the permanent barracks building 39 would continue to impact the area. It is also recommended that the two World War II bachelor officers' quarters, 40 and 41 (Area E), presently listed on the national register of historic places as contributing resources, eventually be removed on the same basis as their contemporary buildings, the 900-series in Area B, in the lower Presidio.

Recommend that the role of the U.S. Army (administration, logistics, security, etc.) during the United Nations meetings at San Francisco in 1945, the consideration of the Presidio as United Nations headquarters in 1947, the United States–Philippine mutual defense treaty in 1851, the Tripartite Security Treaty in 1951, and the United States–Japan security pact also in 1951 – the last three events occurring at the Presidio – be the subject of a special study.

Recommend that a historic resource study be researched and written on the United States Army's western headquarters from the establishment of Military Department 10 in 1846 to the inactivation of the Sixth U.S. Army in 1995. The study to include the commanding officers; staffs; organization; missions; strengths; geographical responsibilities; posts, camps, and stations; accomplishments, and relationship to

the War Department and the Department of the Army as well as to other headquarters, etc. Such a study would not only identify the Presidio as one unit in the command down to World War II, but the Presidio as the location of the army headquarters since then.

Recommend a historic resource study for the Marine (Public Health Service) Hospital at San Francisco from 1850 to at least 1982. The study should note the international origins of such a hospital as well as the United States' participation in the idea. The study would provide a basis for planning decisions, maintenance needs, interpretation, and future uses. It is believed that such a study has not hitherto been attempted.

Recommend a special study on railways at the Presidio of San Francisco – the rails at Fort Point during construction of the fort, the mine depot tracks, the railroad in the Lower Presidio including its role in World War II as well as its relation to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation, and the several lines leading into the eastern reservation from the city.

Recommend the preparation of an administrative history of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and its involvement with the acquisition of the Presidio of San Francisco as a National Park System area down to at least 1995. Further recommend that consideration be given to having this history written by an academician well versed in the evolution of the National Park Service/System. Further recommend that a high priority be given this project while many of the participants in this history are still available.

Also recommend a survey of the following military journals be made to identify articles and other information relating to the military history of the San Francisco Bay Area:

*Military Affairs* (formerly *Journal of the American Military History Foundation* and *Journal of the American Military Institute*)

*Military Collector and Historian*

*U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*

*Air University Review*

*Air Force Journal* (formerly *Air Corps Newsletter*, *Air Force*, and *Official Journal of the Air Force*)

*Journal of the Military Institution of the United States*

*The Military Review* (formerly *Review of Current Military Writing*)

*Army Digest* (formerly *Army Information Digest*)

*Army* (formerly *U.S. Combat Forces Journal*)

*Antiaircraft Journal* (formerly *Journal of United States Artillery and Coast Artillery Journal*)

*Armor* (formerly *Cavalry Journal* and *Armored Cavalry Journal*)

*Military Engineer* (formerly *Occasional Papers and Memoirs*)

*Quartermaster Review*

*Military Chaplain*

*Ordnance* (formerly *Army Ordnance*)<sup>1</sup>

Recommend the following issues concerning structures listed in the *Presidio National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms*, October 1993, be verified and changed as and if necessary:

Flagstaff 80, Main Post. Constructed in 1927. Recommend it be added to the Registration forms as a contributing resource.

Buildings 117 and 118, Main Post. Presently shown as a classroom (117) and a five-vehicle garage (118). The Registration Forms presently list 118 as a contributing resource and 117 as a noncontributing resource with the notation "appears altered with non-historic addition and siding; needs study." The building records from the National Archives show that both structures were built as machine gun sheds, each 22 feet 8 inches by 61 feet 6 inches, concrete and stucco, completed April 6, 1940. Recommend that both be redesignated as machine gun sheds and that further study be carried out on 117 as stated on the form. (Ref. U.S. Army Commands 1920-1942, Box 10, RG 394, NA.)

Concerning buildings 274 and 275, North Cantonment, described as "World War II temporary" on page 7-181 of the Registration Forms as contributing resources, recommend they be identified as prisoner of war camp headquarters 274 and prisoner of war camp kitchen and mess hall 275.

Recommend further investigation to determine if the following two descriptions refer to the same

---

1. This listing has been taken from Matloff, *American Military History*.

Presidio building, radio station 314. The National Register Registration forms, Presidio. 7-152, describe the building as the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) Station, built in 1921.

Building Form 117 in RG 394, U.S. Army Commands, 1920-1941, National Archives, describes the following building: [old] number 310, transmitter building radio station WYV, two story, concrete, 34 feet by 100 feet with a wing 33 feet by 37 feet, completed March 11, 1942, at a cost of \$52,562.

(The two sources agree entirely on the adjacent building, radio receiving station 312 built in 1921.)

The National Register Registration Forms list "officer family housing," 401-434, noncontributing, as "Capehart" housing constructed in 1948. Other sources state that congressional-authorized Capehart housing followed congressional-authorized Wherry housing. Wherry housing being built ca. 1953; Capehart housing being built later in 1950s. Recommend that a determination be made if the 400-series officers' quarters were "Capehart" housing. (Reference: Joseph Hagwood, Jr., *Engineers at the Golden Gate*, p. 268, no further documentation.)

The storehouse 938 in the lower Presidio is shown as a noncontributing resource, page 7-210, and as having been built in 1941. This building is not mentioned in the narrative section of the Registration Forms whereas other 900-series buildings erected that year are. Recommend some notice be made of the building's history. Also, is there a possibility that the building was constructed in 1945 and that warehouse 901 was built in 1941 along with the other structures in Area B?

Building 1028, built in 1979 in the vicinity of the Letterman Medical Center, was listed as a noncontributing resource and described as "nurses quarters." This building served as quarters for enlisted women assigned to Letterman (Quartermaster, Medical, etc.) and not for commissioned officers, i.e. Nurses. (Ref. Map, Presidio of San Francisco, General Site Map, March 1987.)

Recommend a correction be made concerning the construction date of the Marine Hospital engineering building 1802. On page 7-155 the date of construction is given as 1932. On page 7-193 the date is 1928.